

"For Whom the Bell Tolls"

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THE SCRIBE

UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT

The Campus Ombudsman: A College Student's Defender?

BY JULIE SEGEDY
Sub-Copy Editor

Ombudsman -- a Swedish term meaning a liaison between the citizens and the government -- what would it mean to a university campus, or, more specifically, what would the role of an ombudsman mean to the students on our own campus?

The question of a student ombudsman has recently been brought up by Student Council.

Stuart E. Broms, president of Council, is most in favor of forming the ombudsman on campus to act as an intermediary between the students and the Administration. He, the ombudsman, would not necessarily settle disputes, but rather would advise the questioner on whom to see about the matter at hand. There is the existing possibility, also, of whether the ombudsman would be a student or a full- or part-time faculty member or come from an entirely different source.

"The advising on this campus is pathetic," said Broms. "We need someone who knows what the hell's going on. A number of American schools and cities have done it, and it's a great idea."

The concept of ombudsman, adapted from the Swedish and Danish governmental posts of "citizen's protector," is becoming increasingly popular. Although there are probably no more than 20 to 30 campus ombudsmen now, several dozen institutions are considering creating such positions. On some campuses, the post of ombudsman is a full-time job; at others, it is a part-time post held by a faculty member who also has teaching duties. Students have also been chosen, though the methods of selection differ.

Last fall, for the first time at an American university, an ombudsman's office was formed at the University of Chicago to represent the interests of students in conflict with the university. The duties of the ombudsman in-

clude reviewing student grievances, instituting investigations, and offering a channel of communication in all disputes, thus helping the campus to become a more open community.

Alfred R. Wolff, dean of Student Personnel, speaking for himself and his colleagues on the University Council, is opposed to the formation of the ombudsman.

"We on the University Council feel that we can effectively work as an ombudsman. If there is a pressing problem, it is the function of this group to solve it. We have in the past worked out the University Senate, check cashing privileges, and things of this sort. And we will continue to do this," said Dean Wolff.

He continued, "Students who don't know where to go can come to us at Student Personnel. We shall then try to expedite matters. In the future, any student who has a problem he cannot solve should see me before acting."

Apparently the idea of an ombudsman hasn't been thrown out completely and will be brought up for further discussion in the future. Dean Wolff commented that it would mean one more person working with the "red tape" of the campus. "There may be some advantages to the formation of an ombudsman, but for the present we are doing the job. There are proper channels of communication for each person to go through to solve his problems," said Dean Wolff.

Most ombudsmen on other campuses are kept busy with problems and complaints ranging from racial injustice and poor dormitory conditions to poor

teaching and unfair grading.

Rev. Robert L. Bettinger, Protestant chaplain on campus, feels that the office of Student Personnel has established in the past all the requirements that one needs for an ombudsman, except that it has become too "institutionalized."

Earle W. Clifford, dean of student affairs at Rutgers University, put it: "Said another way, a decision to go to an ombudsman is a fine advertisement for the failure of the administration in general and the student personnel program in particular. . . A good student personnel program can handle most ombudsman functions."

James D. Rust, ombudsman at the University of Michigan, said: "One of the real basic problems is that students have so much contact with a phalanx of secretaries, clerks, and tellers. A lot of them try to be helpful but end up giving the wrong advice."

An ombudsman cannot be expected to perform miracles. For example, if a campus is in need of a change in basic administrative policy and classroom procedure, an ombudsman can do little to "still the tides of dissent."

Thomas F. Davis, ombudsman at the University of Detroit, put it in an article in "The Chronicle of Higher Education": "The ombudsman is not the conscience of the university, but it makes it possible for a conscience to exist on the campus."

With the question of a student ombudsman on our own campus pending, the student is urged to consider: "The Campus Ombudsman: College Student Defender."

Questionnaire Reveals No-Curfew Popularity

A questionnaire was circulated among the women residence hall students to find out how the no-curfew system has been working out since its installation in October. The results were overwhelmingly favorable.

Though there are 1,694 women in the dorms, all the questions were not answered. This was attributed to the fact that all women students are not under the no-curfew system and the questions did not apply to them. Those not included are Freshmen and those upper class women who did not want the privileges and greater responsibility of the new regulations. Another reason why all of the questions were not answered by an equal number of students is because the rules for no curfew differ, in some cases, from dorm to dorm. However, all women students were expected to answer the last three questions.

The survey was taken in mid-November.

1. Have you used the key system? yes-605 no-20.
2. Have you had difficulty with the key and lock? yes-70 no-466.
3. Have you had any trouble getting into the dorm? yes-8 no-652.
4. Is the key return slot or box, in your dorm, conveniently located? yes-651 no-74.
5. When you've gone to sign out a key, has a key been available? yes-619 no-36.

(Continued on page 4)

New Dean Appointed To Arts and Sciences

Dr. Donald W. Fletcher, 39, currently executive director of the Center for Advanced Medical Technology and biology professor at San Francisco State College, has been named dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University.

He will succeed Dr. Karl D. Larsen who had been named acting dean July 31, 1967 and later dean, replacing Dr. Leland Miles, who left the University to become president of Alfred University, Alfred, N. Y. Dr. Larsen formerly was chairman of the physics department.

Dr. Fletcher will assume his duties Aug. 1. Dr. Fletcher attended Fullerton Junior College, Fullerton, Calif., received B.S. and M.S. degrees in bacteriology and biochemistry from Oregon State University, and a Ph. D. in microbiology and chemistry from Washington State University.

Dr. Fletcher was a control chemist for the Purex Corporation Ltd., South Gate, Calif. 1947-48 and served as a graduate research assistant in the department of bacteriology at Oregon State University from 1951-1953 and in the same capacity at Washington State University from 1953-1955.

A former instructor in bacteriology and public health at Washington State University, Pullman, Wash., from 1956 to 1959, Dr. Fletcher also has been assistant professor of biology at San Francisco State College, 1959-1963 and was named associate professor of biology and chairman of the microbiology department there from 1963-1967.

From 1960 to 1964 Dr. Fletcher was assistant research biochemist in the department of biochemistry at the University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco. He was a Fulbright professor of microbiology on the faculty of veterinary medicine at the University of Belgrade in Yugoslavia 1967-1968. Dr. Fletcher was acting dean of the graduate division of San Francisco State in 1966-67.

He was a U. S. Public Health Service research fellow in microbiology from 1955-56 at Washington State University, and National Science Foundation fellow in radiation biology at Tulane University in the summer of 1960, as well as in philosophy and history of science at American University in the summer of 1964.

A member of the International Congress for Microbiology in Moscow July 24-30, 1966, and of the First International Congress of Yugoslavia for Microbiologists in Belgrade Sept. 25-28, 1968, Dr. Fletcher also is a member of the Society of Sigma Xi, an honorary science group and of Phi Kappa Phi, national educational honorary society.

Public Admin. Fellows Involve Study, Work

Students interested in a career in Public Administration are offered an opportunity to apply for a fellowship to study at three different universities.

Candidates must be American citizens who have completed or who will complete a Bachelor's degree with any recognized major by June of 1969. Each fellowship for single fellows has a total value of \$4,455. The stipend is \$3,300 and the remainder of the grant consists of the remission of fees and tuition at the three cooperating universities. Each fellowship for married fellows has a total value of \$4,855. The stipend is \$3,700 and the remainder of the grant also consists of the remission of fees and tuition at the three universities.

Beginning this June, Fellows will serve three-months internship with either a department of the state government of Alabama, Kentucky or Tennessee or with

Weicker To Speak at Graduation

Congressman Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. R-Conn. will be the principle speaker at the University's mid-winter commencement to be held Friday, Jan. 24 at 8 p.m. in Harvey Hubbell Gymnasium.

There are approximately 617 students who will participate in the exercises. This includes 317 students who completed requirements for their degrees at the close of the summer session in September, and approximately 300 students who will have completed their requirements this month.

Candidates for associate and bachelor degrees in their respective schools will be presented by Earle M. Biggsbee, dean of the Junior College of Connecticut; Dr. Karl D. Larsen, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Frederick A. Ekeblad, dean of the College of Business Administration; Miss Faye M. Kubichek, associate professor of nursing in the College of Nursing; Dr. John Lovell, dean of the College of Education and Dr. Willard P. Berggren, dean of the College of Engineering.

Candidates for Masters degree will be presented by Dr. Lovell, Dr. Ekeblad, Dr. Berggren and Dr. Larsen. Dr. Lovell will present candidates for the sixth-year professional diploma in the College of Education.

Personal Keys Cited As Curfew Solution

As a result of a student opinion poll on the no-curfew system, several suggestions for improvement are being discussed.

"Only one official proposal has been made," said Mrs. Samway. The proposal would provide a key for every girl, which she would receive with her room key at the beginning of the year. The proposal was made by the No-Curfew Committee and was presented to Mrs. Samway and Dr. Claire Fulcher, assistant dean of Personnel.

Mrs. Samway stated that a reply has been written stating "No change of this nature will take place unless the system has been in use for at least a year. It was stipulated that it would be on a one-year trial." Therefore, the committee will have to re-propose the issue for next fall.

There are other ideas that are being unofficially considered by the No-Curfew Committee. It has been suggested that only seniors

have their own keys, juniors have them for weekends and sophomores follow the sign-out procedure now being used. Another idea is that second semester freshmen, with a certain QPR, be allowed to have keys. A third idea involves expanding the key hours. This is a more urgent problem, according to Mrs. Samway, and the committee plans to talk with the house presidents in the near future to see what can be done about covering more hours.

Since the system was started in October, only two keys have been lost and both times it was because the girls' pocketbooks were stolen. One girl was from Bodine, one from Lucien Warner. New locks have already been put on those dorms.

However, \$200 worth of fines have been collected in those few months for keys being turned in late. The money goes back into the fund used to maintain the system.

This will be the last edition of The Scribe until Tuesday, February 4, 1969, due to final exams and intercession.

An Interview with Rev. Bettinger:

Students Play with the Draft

Q. Rev. Bettinger, I know that you have been active as a draft counselor on campus this year and that you have some ideas of your own on the subject of the draft. Would you care to expound on them?

A. I am very much concerned about the problems of the draft

from the kinds of counseling that I get. What I am most concerned about are the sort of "after the fact" problems that have come up. I would like very much to see more people -- faculty and students -- really taking a good look at the draft situation. There are many of us who feel that it is

an inequitable system and the situations that come to me just further establish that. We are working with a system which, in an institution this size, if people work together, could do a lot to bring the inequities to the attention of the establishment and then some changes could take place.

Unfortunately, most of the students that I see come in at the last minute and then start saying that they have a "conscience problem" and, in fact, do have a conscience problem but have not looked into it enough to take the necessary steps.

Furthermore, a lot of students are playing the long-shot; they think, "Maybe I won't get drafted because of some minor difficulty, maybe I won't have to go to combat -- I might pull some good luck and get assigned in the states or get some kind of special duty because of my field of study." And then when they do get in the service, they still have their "conscience problems" which are much harder to deal with after you're in the service.

There are a lot of students who want to go in the service and want to make it a good experience, but they goof themselves up in their educational process because they don't take time out

Rev. Robert L. Bettinger, serving his fourth year as Protestant chaplain on campus, came to the University in 1965 from Madison, Wisconsin, where he served as Associate Rector of St. Andrew's in Wisconsin.

Rev. Bettinger is currently active as a draft counselor on campus and an affiliate of the Big Brother program.

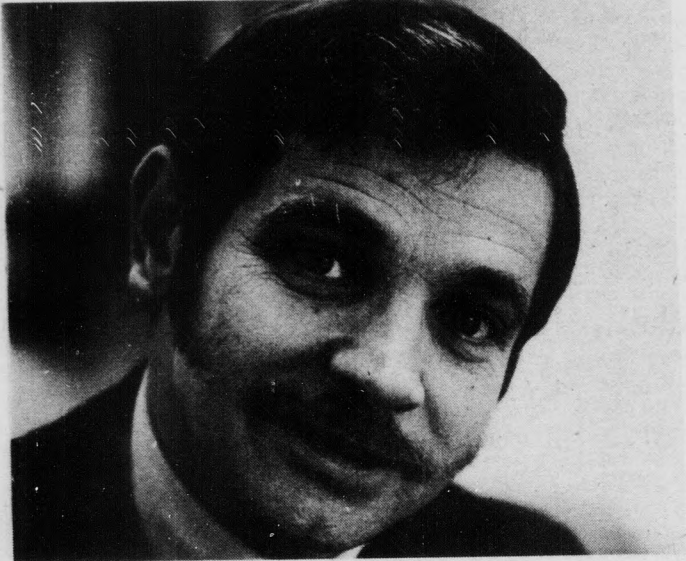
to find what the laws are and what the procedure is going to be. Especially those who are taking five years for change of major or some other reason -- they have a great deal of difficulty when they get almost to the end of their career and are about to graduate and they find they've used up their eligible draft exempt time. Other students are very much stuck because they haven't received notice of draft call from their board and they want to get started on a graduate career and they're in a dilemma as to whether or not they could take the risk and spend the money for a semester of graduate work and have a chance of getting through with it. Those are the major dilemmas for the office of Student Personnel and Veterans who try to keep up with the information. The students aren't getting the information on their own when they most need it and they're waiting until they're in the bind. It would help a great deal if a group of people on campus would take some time to continually publish -- either through The Scribe or some other oc-

casional papers that are distributed about the campus -- some of the issues and get people involved in studying them more thoroughly.

Q. What do you think of SDS on this campus?

A. On this campus, I think that SDS is having a slow start and I think that they have some very important issues that are legitimate issues for any organization to discover, explore, and try to do something about. But they are finding it difficult to get organized and function. So have all other groups on campus. I sense that much of our youth today are unable to take hold of the power they actually have in leadership function and that they keep looking for someone else to solve their problems. SDS doesn't look for a consensus, to the best of my knowledge. And SDS doesn't look for an institutional leadership, but consequently it doesn't seem to have the kind of leadership -- which is a non-authoritarian leadership -- to emerge. I guess it would be more a charismatic leadership that would settle around an issue and see it through. If the students can't get hold of an issue in strong enough numbers and agree to work together without any violence and criticising each other, then nothing will get off the ground. I think that there are some very, very important issues on this campus for SDS and other groups to wrestle with, but they have to decide what they are. I hope they will take some of the issues and do something with them and I think it would do a great deal of good for the students on the campus to have to develop their own leadership.

(Continued on page 3)



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Interview...

(Continued from page 2)

To me, SDS is not the "bad force" that a lot of people try to make it out to be. SDS is another attempt to try to correct the inequities in a democratic society.

The only people who are listening, or who get the attention of the SDS either on campus or through the news media, are the extremists. But basically those who have worked the hardest are the extremists, and the issues are there whether or not SDS takes care of them. There are some inequities in our democratic society. I have friends who I worked with in the Civil Liberties Union who are dedicated to making the law work, and I see that I can do a lot to make the law work. I also see that there is another role which is to bring to the attention of those who have the power to make the law work the areas where it isn't working. If SDS did nothing but raise the issues, even that

would be an important function in a democratic society. So I support the kinds of possibilities that SDS has. I would like to see SDS do more of this on this campus and I think that the beginnings of an underground newspaper is very important for the life of this campus. I suspect that I could never support every article in any issue.

Q. What was your reaction to Chrysalis?

A. I liked the fact that it finally got off the ground in this printed form and I'm not sure that I could say that I liked it. But I think if I could say that I like it, then it would be too comfortable a paper, and it wouldn't be serving its purpose.

Q. Do you like what Chrysalis stands for?

A. I'm not sure we've seen enough of it to know what it stands for.

Q. How about the "typical University student"? Do you think he is as apathetic as people con-

sider him to be?

A. I don't like to say there is a typical University student because if I were to try to get an opinion of the University student, there isn't any one student I could go to who would give me a broad enough perspective that I could say, "That's the typical student."

I feel that there are still many students who are in college for a wrong reason, who are not here for an education but because the pressures of our society make him. They come here without having yet decided what it is they really want to do; these are the students who are inclined to be the most apathetic and also the ones who think they have the most problems with finding a good social life and happiness at the University.

The students who seem to have their goal pretty well established and seem to be concerned about getting a good education are also the ones who tend to be the ac-

tive students, trying to make the University a better place. And I think they are contributing a lot. This University has so much going for it and what is happening by way of agitation to improve the University is really very constructive.

Q. Is it true, as rumor will have it, that you're leaving the University?

A. For the past year, I've been investigating the possibility of studying for a year in Japan, with the idea that I would come back at the end of that year to this University. However, my efforts to raise the funds to go have not been very fruitful at this point, so I doubt that that will take place.

I had hoped to go to study the effects of group dynamics on the student political life in Japan at the time of a possible negotiation of a peace treaty between the United States and Japan.

Q. Do you feel that today's students will get what they want through revolution and demonstration or is there another way?

A. Most of the students who really are concerned about preserving a free and democratic society are the activists who are willing to go to the extent of revolution if necessary only because they see so much resistance on the part of the established power structure to do it in the means that are established by our Constitution. And I believe that most who have become the radical activists have first tread through some established procedures. Of course in any group there are always some taggers-on who follow some strong leader and never do the homework themselves. But I would remind anyone that that is true in our church institution which is exalted in our society as the source of moral fiber.

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Knights Remain Unbeaten In North-East League

Coach Bruce Webster's Purple Knight cagers grabbed first place in the Northern division of the North-East Conference Saturday night with an 81-72 victory over Stonehill College.

Questionnaire...

(Continued from page 1)

6. Have you found the key hours in your dorm satisfactory? yes-374 no-345.

7. a) Would you be willing to accept the responsibility of handing out keys while on bell duty? yes-1000 no-213.

b) If no, are more hours needed? yes-324 no-44.

c) Would the present number of keys be sufficient if scheduled at different times? yes-145 no-250.

8. Have you found that people coming in after curfew have been causing unnecessary disturbances? yes-29 no-1187.

A majority of the answers to question nine merely expressed pleasure with the system as it is working, however, several other answers reappeared frequently.

Former Women's Residence Association President Barbara Nass who is also a member of the no-curfew committee, said that she felt it was unlikely that freshmen would receive no-curfew privileges, at least during this academic year. She based this opinion on discussions with RA's that felt that though some freshmen were capable of handling the added responsibility, many more were not.

Another member of the committee and co-chairman of the R.A.'s, Evette Odintz, commented on two of the other suggestions. She said that each person in the large dorms was not given a key as they were in the smaller ones because a larger number of keys would probably be lost and there would be a greater security risk. She also explained that the ten dollar penalty fees would be used to purchase new locks and keys when too many had been lost and the danger was thus increased.

Other members of the no-curfew committee include Sue Supple, co-chairman of the R.A.s; Ellen Oppenheim, former chairman of Joint Council; Arlene Ploshnick, vice-president of Student Council; Mrs. Anne-Marie Samway, Residence counselor; and Kathy Eslien of Student Personnel.

Univ. Gets Educ. Grant

The University has recently received a grant of \$150,000 from the U.S. Office of Education for the operation of a three-phase Institute in African-Asian history, beginning this summer, for teachers of grades 6-12, administrators, or trainers of teachers.

Dr. Henry W. Littlefield, University president and Dr. Albert J. Schmidt, chairman of the University history department, said that this will be the third year that the University has operated an institute in history under a government grant. The latter two were operated under the National Defense Educational Act while the 1969-70 program will function under the provisions of the Educational Professional Development Act.

Approximately 50 to 60 teachers, administrators, or trainers of teachers will be accepted for the first phase of the program, Dr. Schmidt reported.

The institute will attempt to foster interaction between the University and regional schools and serve as "a vehicle for generating new ideas on education within the University."

The triumph was the fifth straight without a defeat for the Knights in conference competition. Stonehill was previously unbeaten in three league contests. The loss dropped the visitors into second place in the Southern division behind Central Connecticut (4-1).

Gary Baum paced all scorers with 24 points and did another fine job off the boards with 16 rebounds. Captain Bob Fauser contributed a fine effort with 17 points.

The big surprise for the Knights was 6-7 John Foster-Bey. The sophomore reserve played about 20 minutes and threw in 16 points. He made seven of eight attempts from the floor as well as two foul conversions. The only shot he missed was blocked.

Foster-Bey came through late in the second half with some

clutch baskets to assure the victory. Fauser was a thorn in the Stonehill defense in the final three minutes as he scored nine of his 17 points.

Stonehill stayed in the game most of the way. The score was tied at 19-all after the first 12 minutes of play when the Purple Knights came alive and put together a streak of 12 straight points.

The Knights led by ten at intermission, 36-26, and led throughout the second half. Stonehill managed to get within two points on three different occasions, but the UB five, led by Baum's jumpers halted the Chieftain rallies.

Foster-Bey and Fauser were instrumental throughout the second half in keeping the Knights in the lead. Guard Tony Barone put in his usual double-figure evening with 13 points.

The Knights get a breather in the schedule until next Wednesday night when they battle another North-East Conference foe, this time on the road. A strong St. Anselm's squad will supply the opposition for the streaking Purple and White.

Next home game for the Knights will be Saturday, Feb. 6 against Merrimack.

In Saturday night's preliminary contest, the Sacred Heart University freshmen won a hard fought 93-80 decision over the UB first year Squires.

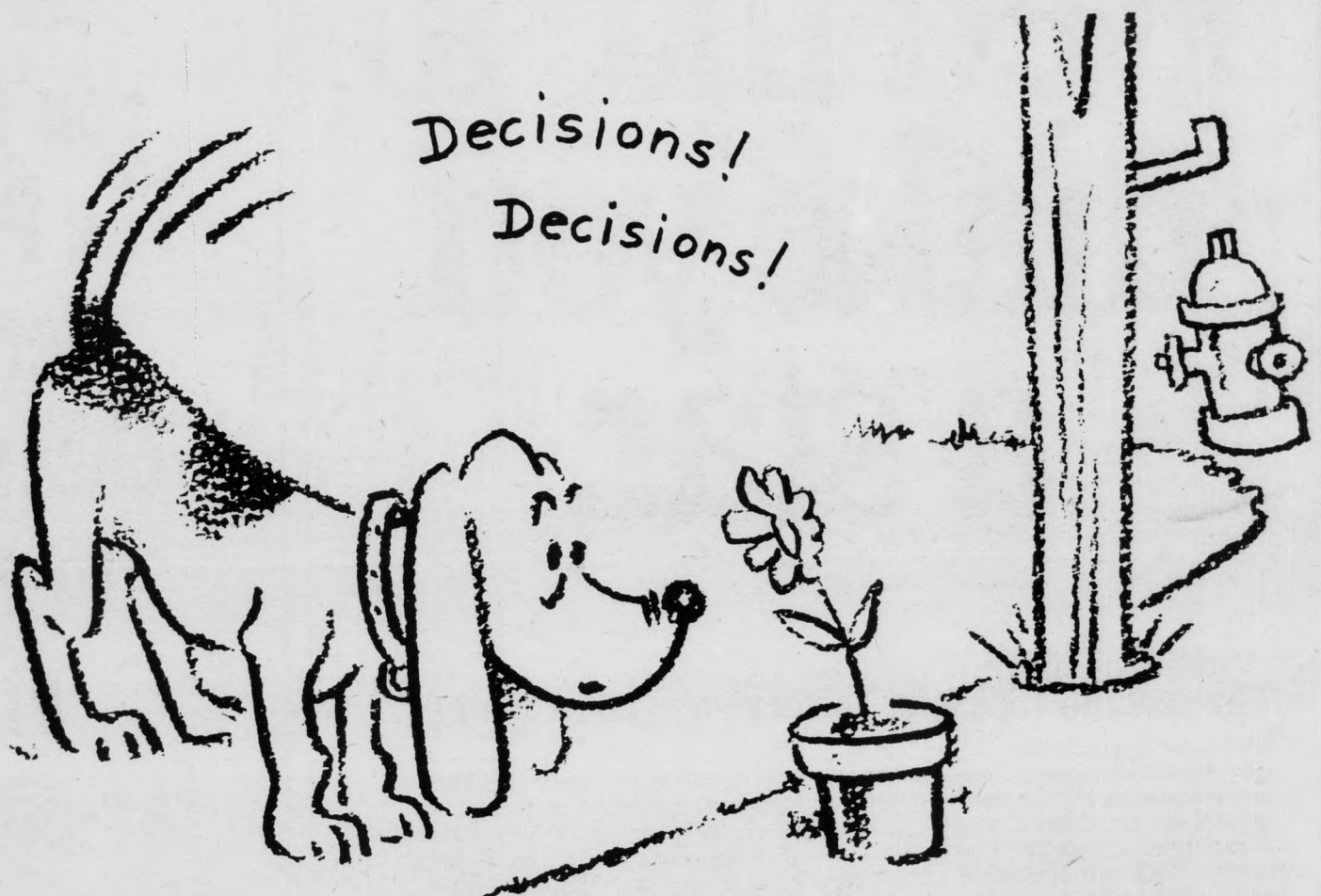
Mike Mlynarski and Bob Gers paced the winners with 36 and 24 points respectively. Squire guard Paul Schaum led the loser's attack with 26 points.

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